

STRANGER THINGS

#301

SUZIE, DO YOU COPY?

Summer brings new jobs and budding romance. But the mood shifts when Dustin's radio picks up a Russian broadcast when he is trying to contact his girlfriend, and Will senses something is wrong.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – LAB – DAY

Scientists walk around the room as they do their jobs, all wearing hazmat suits and gas masks. A large machine sits in the middle of the room.

JUNE 28, 1984

A scientist walks up to the machine and flicks a few switches before pressing a button. An alarm starts wailing.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

Grigori and Stepanov watch the lab through the observation windows. A door opens behind them, and they turn around to see the lead scientist and Alexei walking down the stairs into the room. The lead scientist sighs deeply before he walks towards the table set up in front of the observation windows, followed by Alexei. He sets a case down on the table and flicks the clasps open, opening the case to show two keys. He takes one of the keys and hands it to Alexei before taking the other one for himself. They move to control panels on either side of the table, flicking the covers open and inserting the keys. They look at each other and nod before turning the keys.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE ROOM – DAY

The machine fires up, whirring and sparking as it moves. It fires a long, steady beam into the wall in front of it, creating a crack. Scientists watch as the crack begins to grow. Vines snake out of the crack.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

Alexei and the lead scientist share a relieved look.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE ROOM – DAY

The crack grows bigger.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

Alexei hears rattling and looks down at the table to see a coffee cup shaking. Those in the observation room stand up and look around as the room shakes.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE ROOM – DAY

Machines on the edges of the lab start to overload and short out. The beam sputters, the crack closing.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

Alexei and the lead scientist share a worried look.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE ROOM – DAY

The device powers down.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

Grigori, Stepanov, Alexei, and the lead scientist look into the lab, unsure of what just happened.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE ROOM – DAY

The device explodes, sending sparks of electricity into all those in the room. The men scream as they're electrocuted, their hazmat suits either melting off or to their bodies. The men are thrown against the walls of the lab, the device no longer sparking.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

The lead scientist looks away, scared. Stepanov looks into the lab, angry. He stabs his cigarette into the ashtray.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – GATE ROOM – DAY

Charred and gooey bodies litter the ground, all with flames on some part of their body. Stepanov makes his way down the stairs into the lab and heads towards the now sealed crack. He is followed by the lead scientist and Alexei. Grigori brings up the rear. Stepanov stands in front of the crack and puts his hand on the wall beside it.

LEAD SCIENTIST (O.S): (in Russian) Comrade-General.

Stepanov turns around. The lead scientist looks nervous but continues.

LEAD SCIENTIST (CONT'D): (in Russian) We are close. You can see. You can see our progress. We just need more ti-

The lead scientist is cut off when Grigori starts to strangle him. He gasps and chokes as Grigori lifts him into the air by his throat, his feet off the ground. Stepanov walks past them and stands in front of Alexei, who looks nervous.

STEPANOV: (in Russian) You have one year.

Stepanov walks past Alexei and heads towards the stairs.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) Yes, Comrade-General.

The lead scientist stops choking as Grigori strangles him, going limp. Grigori drops him to the ground.

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DAY

Stepanov and Grigori exit the facility, walking towards a helicopter that waits to go on the helicopter pad. The camera pans up and towards the sky, landing on a Soviet Union flag as it flutters in the wind.

Cut to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER ONE: SUZIE, DO YOU COPY?

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

'Never Surrender' by Corey Hart plays from the cassette player.

ONE YEAR LATER

The camera pans over Eleven's belongings.

COREY HART (ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) Just a little more time is all we're asking for...cause just a little more time could open closing doors...just a little uncertainty can bring you down...

The camera lands on Eleven and Mike as they kiss on Eleven's bed. Mike pulls away.

COREY HART (ON CASSETTE PLAYER) and Mike: (singing) And nobody wants to know you now...

Mike imitates a guitar break, taking Eleven off guard.

COREY HART (ON CASSETTE PLAYER) and Mike (CONT'D): (singing) Nobody wants to show you-

ELEVEN: Mike!

Eleven puts her hands on Mike's mouth in a vain attempt to stop him from singing. He grabs her wrists and pulls her hands away.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Mike, stop! Stop!

COREY HART (ON CASSETTE PLAYER) and Mike: (singing) So if you're lost and on your own...

ELEVEN: Mike! Stop! Mike! Mike!

COREY HART (ON CASSETTE PLAYER) and Mike: (singing) You can never surrender...

ELEVEN: Stop!

MIKE: What, do don't like it?

ELEVEN: No!

Eleven laughs before she and Mike start kissing again.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper sits glumly on the couch, eating Tostitos and watching Magnum, P.I.

THOMAS MAGNUM (ON TV): Don't look at the dogs, work the lock. Work the lock. Work the lock. Don't look at the dogs. You looked at the dogs.

Dogs bark on the TV. Hopper takes a swig of beer.

THOMAS MAGNUM (CONT'D)(ON TV): Sometimes everything goes exactly as planned.

Hopper burps and turns his head to look at the door to Eleven's room. The chair creaks slightly as he leans backwards, trying to catch a glimpse into Eleven's room. He sees Mike and Eleven kissing on her bed.

HOPPER: Hey!

Mike and Eleven look up to see Hopper looking through the door. Eleven uses her powers to quickly shut the door. The chair snaps upright.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey!

Hopper sets his snacks on the coffee table beside him and starts to get up.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Three-inch minimum!

Hopper walks towards Eleven's room.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Leave the door open three inches!

Hopper tries to open the door but finds it locked. He rattles the doorknob. He sighs and hits the door once.

HOPPER (CONT'D): El, open this door.

Hopper tries the handle again.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Open the-

The door swings open on his next try, catching Hopper off guard. He stops in the doorway, confused. Mike and Eleven lay on her bed, both reading magazines of some kind. Mike looks confused.

MIKE: What's wrong?

Mike grins. Hopper glares at him.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Mike bikes down the road, his Supercomm connected to the handlebars.

MIKE (CONT'D): My God, that was priceless! Did you see his face?

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

Eleven rolls onto her back on the bed, holding a Supercomm.

ELEVEN: It was like a tomato!

Eleven laughs.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

MIKE: Yeah, a fat tomato.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

ELEVEN: I wish I was still with you.

MIKE (ON SUPERCOMM): I know.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D): Me too. But I'll see you tomorrow, all right? First thing.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

ELEVEN: Tomorrow.

Eleven smiles.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Mike bikes through the parking lot and towards the bike racks. Lucas, Will, and Max walk towards him as he parks his bike.

LUCAS: You're late.

MIKE: Sorry!

LUCAS: Again!

WILL: We're gonna miss the opening.

MIKE: Yeah, if you guys keep whining about it. Let's go!

LUCAS: (mocking) "If you guys keep whining about it. Nyeh-nyeh-nyeh".

Mike walks towards Lucas and starts pushing him towards the doors.

MIKE: Just please stop talking, dude.

LUCAS: Let me guess.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Mike, Will, Lucas, and Max walk inside and start heading towards Scoops Ahoy.

LUCAS (CONT'D): You were busy.

Lucas smacks his lips.

MIKE: Oh, yeah, real mature, Lucas.

LUCAS: "Oh, El, I wish we could make out forever, and never hang out with any of our friends".

MAX: Lucas, stop.

LUCAS: Will thinks it's funny.

WILL: Because it is.

MIKE: Yeah, it's so funny that I want to spend romantic time with my girlfriend.

Lucas puts his arm around Max's shoulders.

LUCAS: I'm spending romantic time with my girlfriend.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – ESCALATORS – NIGHT

Mike, Lucas, Max, and Will make their way down the escalator to the first floor, cutting through people.

GIRL: Hey!

MIKE: Excuse us! Sorry! Sorry! Sorry, sorry, sorry!

MAX: Excuse me, I'm sorry.

WILL: Sorry.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Mike, Lucas, Max, and Will exit the escalator. Mike almost crashes into a group of girls.

GIRL 2: Hey!

GIRL 3: Watch it!

ERICA: Yeah! Watch it, nerd!

The group sees Erica and her group of friends sitting on the benches around a large potted plant.

LUCAS: Isn't it past your bedtime?

ERICA: Isn't it time you died?

LUCAS: Psycho!

ERICA: Butthead!

Lucas turns around as his group keeps walking.

LUCAS: Mall rat!

ERICA: Fart face!

Lucas blows a raspberry. Max grabs his arm.

MAX: Oh, now that was mature.

The group walks into Scoops Ahoy.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Robin stands behind the till. Mike, Lucas, Max, and Will walk up to the counter. Mike rings the bell repeatedly.

ROBIN: Hey, dingus, your children are here.

Steve slides open the window into the back room, looking at the group with an annoyed expression.

STEVE: Again? Seriously?

No one says anything. Lucas shrugs. Mike rings the bell.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Steve opens the door and steps out, looking around. Mike, Max, Lucas, and Will quickly file out of the Scoops Ahoy back room and into the corridor.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on, come on.

The group walks down the corridor away from Steve.

STEVE (CONT'D): I swear, if anybody hears about this-

MIKE, MAX, LUCAS, and WILL (IN UNISON): We're dead!

Steve sighs before walking into the Scoops Ahoy back room, closing the door behind him.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Mike cracks open a door and looks out. He looks behind him.

MIKE: All clear.

The group walks out of the hallway and heads into a cinema playing a preview of George A. Romero's Day of the Dead.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – CINEMA – NIGHT

Mike and Will make their way down a row, carefully stepping past people sitting down. Max and Lucas do the same, only one row down.

MIKE (CONT'D): See, Lucas? We made it.

LUCAS: We missed the previews.

MAX: Still made it. Fart face.

WOMAN: Shh.

Will rifles through his bag, pulling out some snacks and handing them to Mike. He grabs some more and passes them forward to Lucas and Max. The start of the preview comes on screen. Sarah Bowman sits against a wall in a room, looking at the ground.

LUCAS: Skittles.

MAX: Thanks.

On the screen, Sarah lifts her head. Everyone watches in anticipation as she walks towards another wall, one that has a calendar on it. She stares at the calendar...and the projection glitches and flicks off. The audience protests.

LUCAS: Come on!

MAX: Come on!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The lights turn off. The kids' rides slow and stop. The escalators jolt to a stop, making those standing on them gasp. Erica looks around.

ERICA: The hell?

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Steve gets ice-cream for customers while Robin serves them. The lights cut off. Steve and Robin stop what they're doing and look around.

STEVE: That's weird.

Steve walks over to the light switch and starts flicking it up and down. He looks at Robin as he flicks it faster.

ROBIN: That isn't gonna work, dingus.

STEVE: Oh, really?

Steve flicks the light switch even faster.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The lights inside and outside shut off. The camera pulls away from the mall and pans out across Hawkins, showing all lights in the town shutting off.

EXT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – NIGHT

The camera pans across the woods and finds Brimborn Steelworks as its lights shut off. The camera moves towards the roof, travelling through a skylight before travelling through grates between the second and first floors.

INT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Black particles lay spread all over the floor. Rats squeal and run around. The particles shake and start to move together, forming a small shadow that looks like a tornado. The rats squeal and run away. The shadow flies towards the camera, letting out a distorted roar.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The outside lights turn on.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The lights turn back on. The escalators start moving. The kids' rides start moving. Erica and her friends look at each other and shrug before continuing to eat their ice creams.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Steve flicks the light switch. The lights turn back on.

STEVE (CONT'D): Let there be light.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – CINEMA – NIGHT

The projector sputters back on and begins to play the movie from where it left off. The audience cheers. Will doesn't cheer, his breathing quickening. The hairs on the back of his neck stand up. He reaches up and touches the back of his neck.

Flashback to #203. Will behind Hawkins Middle. The world looking like the Upside Down. The Mind Flayer rising over the school. The Mind Flayer setting a tendril down on the ground. Will shaking as the Mind Flayer possesses him.

Flashback to #209. Hopper's cabin's lounge room. Will writhing and screaming as Joyce, Jonathan, and Nancy burn the Mind Flayer out of him.

Flashback to #209. Hopper's cabin's lounge room. Will's face almost entirely black as he chokes Joyce.

Flashback to #209. Hopper's cabin's lounge room. The Mind Flayer leaving Will's body.

MIKE: Hey.

Will gasps, looking at Mike and dropping his hand.

MIKE (CONT'D): You okay?

WILL: Yeah.

MIKE: Are you sure?

Will nods.

WILL: Of course.

MIKE: Okay.

Mike looks back at the screen. Will does the same, though he looks nervous. On the screen, Sarah reaches out and touches the calendar. Hands reach out of the walls, making the audience gasp.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – JONATHAN'S ROOM – DAY

Nancy sits up in bed.

NANCY: Shit!

Nancy grabs her watch from the bedside table and looks at it.

NANCY (CONT'D): Shit, shit, shit, shit, shit!

Jonathan sits up.

JONATHAN: What...what's wrong?

NANCY: It's almost 9:00.

JONATHAN: What?

Jonathan quickly looks at the clock on the other beside table. It flashes 12:00. Nancy gets up and walks over to the small couch in the corner of the room.

NANCY: We forgot to reset the clocks. The power went out last night, remember?

JONATHAN: Oh, shit!

Jonathan falls out of bed, and quickly pulls a shirt on. As he jumps to the other side of the bed to grab his pants, Nancy pulls a skirt on. Jonathan puts one leg into his pants, but trips and falls forward when he puts the other in.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Whoa!

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – BACK YARD – DAY

Nancy tosses her bag and shoes out the window of Jonathan's room before jumping down. She grabs her bag and shoes from off the ground and starts running around the back of the house, careful not to be seen.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – HALLWAY – DAY

Jonathan buttons his shirt up as he walks out of his room and heads towards the front door. Joyce walks up to him from the kitchen.

JOYCE: Hey, hey, hey! Wait up.

JONATHAN: Oh, no, I'll eat at work. I'm late.

JOYCE: No.

Joyce rubs the lipstick mark off Jonathan's cheek.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Your cheek.

JONATHAN: All right, all right.

Jonathan pulls Joyce's hand away and heads towards the front door.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): I gotta run.

JOYCE: All right.

JONATHAN: All right, see you later.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Will sits at the kitchen table. Joyce walks in and sits down.

WILL: Ugh. Gross.

JOYCE: Well, I don't think you're gonna think it's gross when you fall in love.

WILL: I'm not gonna fall in love.

JOYCE: Okay.

Joyce notices a pile of papers on the ground next to the fridge.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Hey.

Joyce gets up and walks over to the pile of papers.

JOYCE (CONT'D): What happened here?

WILL: I don't know.

Joyce bends down and starts putting the papers back on the fridge. She picks up the drawing of Bob as a superhero and smiles before putting it back on the fridge.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Jonathan's car drives along.

NANCY (O.S.): Can you please drive faster?

INT. JONATHAN'S CAR

Nancy puts her makeup on as Jonathan drives.

JONATHAN: What, do you want to break down? We're lucky this thing still drives at all.

NANCY: I'm serious, Jonathan. I can't be late.

JONATHAN: You mean we can't be late.

NANCY: No, I mean I can't be late. They like you no matter what you do.

JONATHAN: Hey, they like you too.

NANCY: Yeah. They like that I'm a coffee delivery machine. They don't actually like me or respect me as a living, breathing human with a brain.

JONATHAN: Wait, you just...you just gotta be patient, okay? They're set in their ways, you know? But...once they realize what a gifted writer you are, they'll come around.

NANCY: I really don't need a Jonathan Byers pep talk right now.

Jonathan sighs.

NANCY (CONT'D): Can you just...please drive faster?

JONATHAN: Okay.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Jonathan's car drives down the road. They pass the Henderson car, which is driving the opposite way. The camera follows the Henderson car.

DUSTIN (O.S.): This is Gold Leader, returning to base. Do you copy? Over.

INT. HENDERSON CAR

Claudia drives as Dustin tries to get in touch with the others.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): This is Gold Leader, returning to base. Do you copy? Over.

No response.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I repeat – this is Gold Leader, returning to base. Do you copy? Over.

No response.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I repeat – this is goddamn Gold Leader-

CLAUDIA: Dusty!

DUSTIN: What?

CLAUDIA: Relax! For goodness' sake.

DUSTIN: I'm in range. They should be answering.

CLAUDIA: You've been away a whole month, honeybun. Maybe they just...forgot.

Dustin doesn't say anything.

EXT. HENDERSON HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

The Henderson car pulls up.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

Dustin puts his bag on his bed, before sitting on the bed with a sigh. He looks at Yurtle in the turtle enclosure.

DUSTIN: At least someone's happy I'm home.

A distorted robotic voice makes Dustin turn his head, seeing a robot toy round a corner on its own and start moving towards him. He stands up and looks around in confusion and fear as toys move on their own, all making noise and moving towards them. A dinosaur toy fires small discs at him. Dustin watches in confusion and fear as all the toys that can move head towards his door and out of his room. He grabs the closest weapon to him – the Farrah Fawcett hairspray.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – HALLWAY – DAY

Dustin sticks the can of hairspray out into the hallway before stepping out of his room, watching as the toys move away from him on their own. He slowly follows them.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): It's just a dream. You're dreaming.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – SITTING ROOM – DAY

Dustin follows the toys out of the hallway and into the sitting room. As he passes a wall, we see Max, Lucas, Will, Mike, and Eleven hiding on the other side. Eleven has her eyes closed, using her powers to make the toys move.

MIKE: (whispers) Now!

The toys power down. Dustin stands at the edge of the room in confusion before he walks forward, kneeling down and picking the toys up one by one, still holding the can of hairspray. Behind him, Max, Lucas, Will, Mike, and Eleven come out of hiding and stand behind him. They all have party blowers in their mouths. Lucas holds a sign reading 'WELCOME HOME DUSTIN'. Max silently counts to three. On three, the group blows the party blowers. Dustin screams, turning around and spraying the hairspray. It hits Lucas in the face directly, making him scream. The others back away in shock. Lucas tries to stop the hairspray.

EXT. HAWKINS COMMUNITY POOL – POOL AREA – DAY

Johnny runs off the diving board.

JOHNNY: Cannonball!

Johnny cannonballs into the pool, making a splash. The camera pans across the pool, showing many Hawkins residents playing in the pool to cool off.

GIRL: Marco!

GROUP OF KIDS (IN UNISON): Polo!

GIRL: Marco!

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GIRL: Marco!

GROUP OF KIDS (IN UNISON): Polo!

The camera pans over to Karen, Winnie, Jill, and Liz as they sunbathe on the side of the pool.

GIRL (O.S.): Marco!

GROUP OF KIDS (O.S.)(IN UNISON): Polo!

GIRL (O.S.): Marco!

GROUP OF KIDS (O.S.)(IN UNISON): Polo!

The camera zooms in on Karen as she sips a can of coke and reads Tender Is The Storm by Johanna Lindsey. Winnie looks to the right.

WINNIE: Ladies.

Winnie lowers her sunglasses.

WINNIE (CONT'D): She's coming down.

The women look towards the lifeguard tower to see Heather climbing down. They all put their things down and start adjusting themselves, fixing their swimsuits and their hair before sitting in their most seductive position. Winnie uses a compact to check her makeup. They look towards the locker rooms.

WINNIE (CONT'D): And...showtime.

Winnie snaps the compact closed. Billy pushes open the locker room doors and walks out, smoking a cigarette. Karen bites her lip. Billy walks away from the locker rooms and heads around the pool to the lifeguard tower. Girls stare as they pass him, smiling. Heather smiles at him as she passes on the way to the locker rooms. He takes no notice. He sees Johnny running on the other side of the pool and blows his whistle. Johnny stops running.

BILLY: Hey, lard-ass!

Johnny looks scared. The crowd in the pool quiets.

BILLY (CONT'D): No running on my watch! I gotta warn you again, and you're banned for life. You wanna be banned for life, lard-ass?

Johnny shakes his head.

BILLY (CONT'D): Didn't think so.

Billy blows his whistle. The crowd goes back to what they were doing, the pool once again noisy. Johnny slowly walks around the side of the pool. Billy looks at the women as he passes them on his way to the lifeguard tower.

BILLY (CONT'D): Afternoon, ladies.

KAREN, WINNIE, LIZ, and JILL (IN UNISON): Afternoon, Billy.

BILLY: Dig the new suit, Mrs. Wheeler.

KAREN: Thank you.

Billy continues to the lifeguard tower, climbing up and sitting down when he reaches it. Karen sighs and bites her lip.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWKINS – DAY

Multiple shops are closed or relocated into Starcourt Mall. A flyer stapled to a pole reads 'SAVE DOWNTOWN! NO TO MALL. TOWN HALL. TUESDAY 6:00PM. SAY NO TO STARCOURT!'. Starcourt Mall's logo printed at the bottom of the flyer has been crossed out.

INT. MELVALD'S GENERAL STORE – DAY

Joyce puts up a sale sign in the window. The door bell jingles as it opens, and Joyce looks to see Hopper walk in.

JOYCE: Hey.

HOPPER: Hey. You busy?

Joyce sighs.

JOYCE: You're our first customer, so...

Hopper gives a tight-lipped smile. Joyce scoffs.

JOYCE (CONT'D): What now?

INT. MELVALD'S GENERAL STORE – DAY

Hopper sits on the bottom of a shelf while Joyce reprices some items.

HOPPER: And then El, she just...slams the door. Right in my face.

JOYCE: Uh-huh?

HOPPER: You know, it is that smug son of a bitch, Mike. He's corrupting her, I'm telling you.

Joyce gives Hopper an 'are you serious?' look as she walks away from the aisle.

HOPPER (CONT'D): And I'm just gonna lose it. I mean, I am gonna lose it, Joyce.

JOYCE: Just take it down, Hopper.

Joyce turns down another aisle.

HOPPER: I need for them to break up.

JOYCE: That is not your decision.

HOPPER: They're spending entirely too much time together.

Hopper stands up and stands at the end of the aisle. Joyce reprices other items.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You agree with me about that, right?

JOYCE: Well, I mean, they're just kissing, right?

HOPPER: Yeah, but it is constant. It is constant.

Joyce moves into another aisle.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Okay? That is not normal.

Hopper picks up a small box and starts throwing it up and catching it.

HOPPER (CONT'D): That is not healthy.

JOYCE: You can't just force them apart. I mean, they're not little kids anymore, Hop. They're teenagers. If you order them around like a cop, then they're gonna rebel. It's just what they do.

Joyce starts repricing items.

HOPPER: So what, I'm just supposed to let them do whatever they want?

JOYCE: No, I didn't say that. I think you should...talk to them.

HOPPER: No. No. Cause talking doesn't work.

Hopper turns down the aisle Joyce is in.

JOYCE: Not yelling. Not ordering. But talk to them.

Hopper throws the small box into a shelf.

JOYCE (CONT'D): You know, like a heart-to-heart.

Hopper stops at the end of the aisle.

HOPPER: A heart-to-heart? What is that?

JOYCE: You sit them down and you talk to them, like you're their friend. I find if you talk to them like you're on their level, then they really start to listen. And then, you know, you could start to create some boundaries.

HOPPER: Boundaries.

JOYCE: Yeah, but, Hop, it's really important that no matter how they respond, you stay calm. You cannot lose your temper.

HOPPER: Uh...maybe you could do it for me?

JOYCE: No.

Hopper walks towards Joyce.

HOPPER: Yeah, you could. Yeah, you could. You come over after work. Yes.

JOYCE: No. It only works if it comes from you.

Joyce uses the price gun to tag Hopper's pocket.

JOYCE (CONT'D): But...

Joyce turns and walks towards her till. Hopper takes the sticker off his pocket and follows.

HOPPER: But?

JOYCE: Maybe I can help you...

Joyce sits down at her till and grabs a notepad and pen.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Find the right words.

Hopper stands beside Joyce as she starts to write. In the store window, we see Nancy walk quickly past.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWKINS – DAY

Nancy walks quickly along the footpath, rushing but trying to look professional. She holds a large paper bag in one hand. She checks her watch as she walks.

EXT. HAWKINS POST – DAY

Nancy walks up to the door and walks in.

INT. HAWKINS POST – JOINT OFFICE AREA – DAY

Nancy puts a wrapped sandwich on the receptionist's desk.

RECEPTIONIST: Thanks, hon.

NANCY: For you.

Nancy continues into the building, putting a wrapped sandwich on a woman's desk.

NANCY (CONT'D): For you.

WOMAN: Thanks.

NANCY: Welcome.

Nancy continues towards the dark room.

INT. HAWKINS POST – DARK ROOM – DAY

Nancy opens the door. Jonathan whips around.

JONATHAN: Oh my God, no, no, no, no! Nancy!

Nancy sets a wrapped sandwich on the desk.

NANCY: Sorry.

INT. HAWKINS POST – JOINT OFFICE AREA – DAY

Nancy closes the door, rolling her eyes slightly before continuing to the meeting room.

INT. HAWKINS POST – MEETING ROOM – DAY

Nancy hands wrapped sandwiches to the men inside as they toss around news story ideas.

MAN 1: How 'bout a piece on Iran?

TOM: I want something local.

BRUCE: I hear there's a beauty pageant at the fair this year.

TOM: Yeah, I'm looking for above the fold here, Bruce.

BRUCE: Then clearly you haven't seen Lucy LeBrock, because I'm not sure she'll fit above the fold!

Bruce pretends he has a pair of breasts and pretends to hold them. The men laugh.

TOM: Fellas! In six hours, we go to print. I need something real.

BRUCE: Oh, I think they're real.

The men laugh. Nancy finishes handing out sandwiches and goes to leave the room, but pauses at the door. She turns around.

NANCY: What about Starcourt?

The men go completely silent. They look at her in disgust, as if they can't believe a woman deigned to suggest something in their line of work. Only Tom seems to be even remotely considering her suggestion, but only barely.

NANCY (CONT'D): I...I was just...thinking...I mean, I know everyone loves the mall, but...how many small businesses have closed since it opened? Like, five on Main, at least.

Bruce starts to unwrap his sandwich.

NANCY (CONT'D): It's changing the fabric of our town in a way-

BRUCE: "The Death of Small-Town America".

Nancy gives a small nod, shocked.

BRUCE (CONT'D): I like it. I like it a lot.

Nancy glances down, embarrassed.

BRUCE (CONT'D): But I think I've got something even spicier.

Nancy looks up. Bruce opens his sandwich and holds it up.

BRUCE (CONT'D): It's about the missing mustard on my hamburger.

The men laugh. Nancy's face falls.

BRUCE (CONT'D): You think you can follow the clues and solve the case of the missing condiment, Nancy Drew?

The men laugh harder. Nancy walks forward to grab the sandwich.

NANCY: Sorry.

Nancy grabs the sandwich and walks out of the meeting room. She takes deep breaths to calm herself as she walks away.

BRUCE: Look out, Phil, she might be after your job!

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Lucas has his head in the sink, running water over his eyes. Max stands next to him.

LUCAS: Ow, ow, ow. Ow.

Lucas pulls away from the sink, rubbing his eyes slightly as he stands up.

MAX: Better?

LUCAS: Still stings.

Lucas rubs his eyes slightly. He points at Max's face.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Is that a new zit?

Max's eyes widen.

MAX: What is wrong with you?

Max grabs Lucas' head and pushes it back towards the sink.

LUCAS: I was just asking!

Lucas screams as the water hits his eyes.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

Dustin spins the back wheel on an invention.

DUSTIN: I call it...the Forever Clock.

Dustin turns around and shows the invention to Will, Mike, and Eleven, still spinning the back wheel. Eleven has her arms wrapped around Mike's arm, and his arms are folded.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): All right? Powered by wind. Very useful in the apocalypse.

Dustin hands the invention to Will, who seems intrigued by it. Dustin turns to grab another invention.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Then, I give you...

Dustin pulls out another invention and shows the others.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): The Slammer.

Dustin's invention starts moving. He pushes it towards Eleven, who backs away, still holding Mike's arm. Dustin chuckles.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Pretty neat, huh?

Dustin turns around.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): But this...

Will starts to spin the back wheel on the first invention.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): This is my masterpiece.

Dustin sets his bag down on the ground with a grunt, kneeling beside it. Mike, Eleven, and Will kneel on the ground in front of it, with Will putting the first invention beside him. Dustin unzips the bag.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I would like you to meet...Cerebro.

Dustin smiles at the others.

MIKE: What exactly are we looking at here?

Dustin: An unassembled one-of-a-kind battery-powered radio tower.

WILL: So, it's a...a ham radio.

DUSTIN: The Cadillac of ham radios. This baby carries a crystal-clear connection over vast distances. I'm talking North Pole to South. I can talk to my girlfriend whenever and wherever I choose.

Will, Mike, and Eleven share shocked looks upon Dustin mentioning a girlfriend.

WILL, MIKE, and ELEVEN (IN UNISON): Girlfriend?

Dustin grins.

MIKE (O.S.): Wait, so her name is Suzie?

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Dustin walks through the house to get to the front door, followed by Will, Mike, and Eleven. They all carry something.

DUSTIN: Suzie with a 'z'. She's from Utah.

WILL: Girls go to science camp?

DUSTIN: Suzie does. She's a genius.

MIKE: Is she cute?

DUSTIN: Think Phoebe Cates, only hotter.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Max looks at the group in confusion as they start to walk out the front door.

MAX: What's going on?

WILL: We're going to talk to Dustin's girlfriend.

Lucas stands up quickly.

MAX and LUCAS (IN UNISON): Girlfriend?

Max and Lucas share a look before grabbing their stuff and running after the others.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – DAY

Steve scoops an ice cream.

STEVE: Alrighty, one scoop of chocolate. That's a buck-twenty-five.

Steve sets the ice cream down in front of Anna and her friend. Anna starts to go through her wallet.

STEVE (CONT'D): Anything else?

Anna holds out a note.

STEVE (CONT'D): Ooh, Purdue. Fancy.

ANNA: Yeah, I'm excited.

Steve takes the note from Anna and starts to put the sale through.

STEVE (CONT'D): Yeah, you know, I considered it, Purdue, but then I was like, you know what? I really think I need some real-life experience, you know, before I hit college, see what it feels like. Kinda like, uh, I don't know, see what it's like to earn a working-man's wage, you know? Uh...

The register starts beeping.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh, I'm sorry.

Steve tries to fix the register.

STEVE (CONT'D): I think that's, like, really important.

ANNA: Yeah, totally.

Anna and her friend share a look.

STEVE (CONT'D): Yeah, anyway, this was, like, so fun. We should kind of like, you know, I don't know...

Steve hands the change to Anna.

STEVE (CONT'D): Maybe hang out this weekend or-

Coins clatter onto the table as Steve drops them into her hand.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh, sorry about that. Uh...I don't know. Maybe next weekend or-

ANNA: Yeah, I'm busy.

STEVE: Oh, that's cool. I'm...I'm working here next weekend, so...the following weekend's better for me.

ANNA: No. I'm sorry, I can't.

Anna and her friend turn and start to walk away.

ANNA (CONT'D): Okay. Thanks.

STEVE: I...this is...my first day here.

Anna and her friend giggle as they walk away. Steve sighs.

Robin slides into the window, holding a whiteboard. The board is split in two, with 'YOU RULE' and 'YOU SUCK' written at the top on either side. The 'YOU SUCK' side already has a tally of five.

ROBIN: And another one bites the dust.

Steve turns around and leans on the front counter.

ROBIN (CONT'D): You are oh-for-six, Popeye.

Robin draws another tally on the 'YOU SUCK' side.

STEVE: Yeah, yeah, I can count.

ROBIN: You know that means you suck.

STEVE: Yep, I can read, too.

ROBIN: Since when?

STEVE: It's this stupid hat.

Robin slides the whiteboard off to the side. Steve walks towards her, standing in front of the back counter.

STEVE (CONT'D): I am telling you, it is totally blowing my best feature.

ROBIN: Yeah, company policy is a real drag. You know, it's a crazy idea, but have you considered...telling the truth?

STEVE: Oh, you mean that I couldn't even get into Tech and my douchebag dad's trying to teach me a lesson, I make three bucks an hour, and I have no future? That truth?

Robin notices something behind Steve.

ROBIN: Hey, twelve o'clock.

Steve turns around to see a cute girl and her friends walking into the shop.

STEVE: Oh, shit. Oh, shit. Okay...uh...

Steve turns back to Robin.

STEVE (CONT'D): I'm going in. Okay? And you know what?

Steve grabs his hat and tosses it into the back room.

STEVE (CONT'D): Screw company policy.

ROBIN: Oh, my God, you're a whole new man.

Steve starts to back up towards the front counter.

STEVE: Right? Ooh.

Robin chuckles. Steve turns around.

STEVE (CONT'D): Ahoy, ladies! Didn't see you there.

The girls jump slightly.

STEVE (CONT'D): Would you guys like to set sail on this ocean of flavour with me? I'll be your captain. I'm Steve Harrington.

The girls laugh.

CUTE GIRL: Oh, God.

STEVE: Can I get you guys a little taste of the Cherries Jubilee? No? Anybody? Banana boat? Four people, four spoons?

Robin gives Steve a disgusted face. She walks out of the window and up to the board.

STEVE (CONT'D): Share it in the booth? Anybody? It's hot out there.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – BACK ROOM – DAY

Robin draws another tally on the 'YOU SUCK' side.

EXT. MELVALD'S GENERAL STORE – DAY

HOPPER (O.S.): I know this is a difficult conversation to have...

INT. MELVALD'S GENERAL STORE – DAY

Hopper sits in a chair in front of the small pharmacy section. Joyce sits on the pharmacy bench opposite him.

HOPPER (CONT'D): But I hope you know that I...care about you very much. And I know that you-

JOYCE: Eye contact.

Hopper sighs. Joyce gives him a 'go on' look.

HOPPER: And I know that you...both care about each other very much. This does not sound like me at all.

JOYCE: Just keep going. Come on.

HOPPER: Which is why I think it's important to establish these boundaries...moving forward...

Hopper looks down at his piece of paper.

JOYCE: No looking. You know this. Come on.

Hopper inhales sharply, shaking his head. He looks at Joyce.

HOPPER: So we can build an environment...uh...where we...all feel comfortable and trusted and open...

JOYCE: "Share our feelings..."

HOPPER: To sharing our feelings...this isn't gonna work.

Hopper stands up and moves towards Joyce.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Um, it's not gonna work. It's not gonna work.

JOYCE: Yes, it will! I promise. Oh, come on.

HOPPER: Maybe I'll just kill Mike.

Hopper leans on the bench next to Joyce.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I'm the chief of police, I could cover it up.

Joyce puts her hand over Hopper's.

JOYCE: You got this.

Hopper looks down at their hands.

JOYCE (CONT'D): I promise.

Hopper looks at Joyce. They don't say anything for a few moments. A small smile crosses Hopper's face.

HOPPER: You wanna have dinner tonight?

Joyce doesn't say anything.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You can give me some more pointers.

JOYCE: Oh, I...um...

Joyce pulls her hand away.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Um, I...

Joyce gives Hopper an uncomfortable smile.

JOYCE (CONT'D): I have plans.

HOPPER: Okay, sure.

The door bell jingles. Joyce looks up.

JOYCE: Oh, a customer.

Joyce slides off the bench and runs towards Carol as she walks in the door. Hopper doesn't move.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Hey, Carol!

CAROL: Oh, hi, Joyce!

JOYCE: How are you? So good to see you.

Hopper watches Joyce as she talks to Carol, a slightly longing look in his eyes.

CAROL: So, um, Georgie has his 13th birthday coming up.

JOYCE: Oh, my gosh, 13?

CAROL: I know! And I'm a little lost...

EXT. WEATHERTOP – DAY

Dustin, Max, Lucas, Will, Mike, and Eleven hike up towards the top of the hill, panting and sweating. Dustin, Max, Lucas, and Will carry gear. Mike and Eleven hold hands, holding back slightly.

LUCAS: Aren't we high enough?

DUSTIN: Cerebro works best at a hundred metres.

MAX: You know, I'm pretty sure people in Utah have telephones.

DUSTIN: Yeah, but Suzie's Mormon.

LUCAS: Oh, shit. She doesn't have electricity?

MAX: Oh, that's the Amish.

WILL: What are Mormons?

DUSTIN: Super religious white people. They have electricity and cars and stuff, but...since I'm not Mormon, her parents would never approve. It's all a bit...Shakespearean.

MAX: Shakespearean?

DUSTIN: Yeah. Like Romeo and Juliet.

MAX: Right.

DUSTIN: Star-crossed lovers.

MAX: I got it.

MIKE: Hey, guys!

Dustin, Max, Lucas, and Will turn around to see Mike and Eleven stopped further down the hill.

MIKE (CONT'D): This is fun and all, but, uh...

Mike taps his watch.

ELEVEN: I have to go home.

DUSTIN: We're almost there.

MIKE: Sorry, man. Curfew.

Mike turns around and starts walking back down the hill.

MIKE (CONT'D): Come on, let's go.

ELEVEN: Good luck.

Eleven turns with Mike, giggling, and the two of them head back down the hill. Dustin checks his watch.

DUSTIN: Curfew at 4:00?

LUCAS: They're lying.

WILL: It's been like this all summer.

MAX: It's romantic.

WILL: It's gross.

DUSTIN: It's bullshit. I just got home.

Dustin watches Mike and Eleven walk down the hill.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Well, their loss, right? Onwards and upwards! Suzie awaits!

Max and Lucas sigh and turn to follow Dustin. Will turns to follow them but stops. His hand reaches up to touch the back of his neck, the hairs standing up. He turns around to face the woods, nervous.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Will, come on!

Will turns around and runs up the hill to catch up with the others. Rats run over the ground Will had been standing on, squeaking.

EXT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – DAY

Hundreds of rats scuttle along the ground and into the factory, squealing.

INT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – MAIN FLOOR – DAY

The rats run along the ground and head towards the door to the basement.

INT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – BASEMENT – DAY

Rats run down the stairs and into the room. One by one, they all start convulsing and squealing, before they burst into piles of sludge.

EXT. HAWKINS COMMUNITY POOL – POOL AREA – DAY

Karen does backstroke in the lap pool. Billy watches. He takes his sunglasses off, a small smile on his face. He blows his whistle. The crowd laughs and yells as they play in the pool. Karen climbs out of the pool using the ladder, slicking back her hair. Billy walks up to her, holding a towel.

BILLY: Looking good out there, Mrs. Wheeler.

KAREN: Thank you.

Billy holds the towel out to Karen, which she takes.

BILLY: Perfect form.

KAREN: Well...your form is amazing.

Billy chuckles, grinning.

KAREN (CONT'D): I'm sorry, I mean, I...I've seen you...uh, teaching...

Billy chuckles.

KAREN (CONT'D): Lessons. Swimming lessons.

BILLY: You know, I could, uh...I could teach you, if you like.

KAREN: Oh.

BILLY: I know all the styles. Freestyle. Butterfly.

Billy goes to put a piece of gum in his mouth.

BILLY (CONT'D): Breaststroke.

Billy bits the gum. Karen drops the towel. She and Billy bend down to pick it up.

BILLY (CONT'D): Oh.

KAREN: Oh!

Billy hands the towel to Karen.

BILLY (CONT'D): You okay?

KAREN: I didn't think you...I didn't think you taught adults.

BILLY: Well, I offer more, uh...advanced lessons to select clientele.

KAREN: Oh.

BILLY: Come to think of it, there is a good pool out at a Motel 6 on Cornwallis. It's very quiet.

Karen glances around.

BILLY (CONT'D): You know, very private.

KAREN: Mmm.

BILLY: Shall we say tonight? Eight o'clock?

Karen doesn't know what to say.

KAREN: I'm sorry. I can't.

BILLY: Can't what? Have fun?

Karen laughs.

BILLY (CONT'D): Mrs. Wheeler!

KAREN: No. I...I...I just, uh...I don't think I need any lessons.

BILLY: Oh, you see, I think you do. I just don't think that you've had the right teacher.

KAREN: I, uh...

BILLY: It will be the workout of your life.

A smile creeps onto Karen's face.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – DAY

Dustin drops his bag on the ground.

DUSTIN: Made it.

Max sighs.

MAX: Yeah, only took five hours.

WILL: Why couldn't we just play D&D?

Max and Lucas drop the gear they're carrying.

LUCAS: I'm so thirsty.

Lucas drops his bag and uncaps his flask, downing the water and gulping loudly. Max stares at him in disbelief. Lucas lowers the flask and wipes his mouth.

MAX: Did you seriously just drink the rest of our water?

Lucas' eyes widen and he quickly spits the water in his mouth back into the flask. He holds the flask out to Max with an awkward smile, winking. Max looks at it, then at Lucas, before she shakes her head and walks away.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – DAY

Dustin, Max, Lucas, and Will work together to set Cerebro up. Once it's put together, they work to tilt it upright. Dustin grins at it.

DUSTIN: Pretty impressive, right?

MAX: Yeah.

DUSTIN: Now, you ready to meet my love?

Dustin moves to sit down.

MAX: Okay, sure.

WILL: Yeah.

Dustin sits down on his now empty bag, picking up the radio transmitter. Max, Lucas, and Will stand in front of him, watching.

DUSTIN: Suzie, this is Dustin. Do you copy? Over.

There's radio static. Dustin looks around, looking awkward.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): One sec. She's probably...she's still there. Suzie...this is Dustin. Do you copy? Over.

There's radio static. Max, Lucas, and Will look at each other in disbelief, before their expressions change to being annoyed.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I'm sure she's there. It's just...

LUCAS: Yeah.

DUSTIN: You know, maybe she's, like, busy or...

LUCAS: Yeah.

DUSTIN: It's around dinnertime.

LUCAS: Mmm.

MAX: Yep.

DUSTIN: Here.

Dustin puts his hands up to say 'I don't know'.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Suzie, do you copy? This is Dustin. Over.

There's radio static.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Suzie, do you copy? This is Dustin. Over.

There's radio static.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Joyce's car pulls up.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce opens the front door and walks inside.

JOYCE: Hey, guys, I'm home.

There's no answer. Joyce tosses her keys onto the small coffee table and hangs her back on a hook.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Guys? Hello?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Joyce opens the fridge and pulls out two containers, walking over to the kitchen counter. She spoons the food onto a plate and puts it in the microwave, setting the timer for two minutes. She opens a bottle of wine and pours it into a glass. She turns the microwave off.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce sets her plate down on the coffee table as she sits on the couch. She picks up the TV remote and turns the TV on. It plays Cheers. Joyce picks up her fork to start eating.

SAM (ON TV): Ah! So, who do you wanna speak to next?

The audience laughs on screen. Joyce moves food around on her plate.

DIANE (ON TV): (echoing) I'm talking about Frasier, Sam. He had a couple sips of Chianti tonight and he asked me to marry him.

SAM (ON TV): (echoing) Did you say a couple of sips, or barrels?

The audience laughs on screen. Bob laughs.

FLSHBCK – INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce and Bob sit on the couch, watching TV and laughing.

BOB: Ahh! Ah, they're funny, don't you think?

JOYCE: Yes.

BOB: I just wish they'd get back together again already.

JOYCE: Me too.

Joyce and Bob kiss.

DIANE (ON TV): You don't think that I still...well, of course I-

SAM (ON TV): You bet your-

Sam and Diane laugh on screen, making Joyce and Bob laugh.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce looks sad.

DIANE (ON TV): Tell everyone that I'll call after the wedding tomorrow.

Joyce cuts into her food.

SAM (ON TV): Tomorrow? What's the rush?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT

The camera pans away from seeing Joyce in the lounge room and towards the fridge. The TV continues in the background.

DIANE (ON TV): Frasier has thoughtfully and romantically arranged for us to be married at the Marino estate.

The TV audio fades as the camera pans to the fridge. The magnet holding up the drawing of Bob as a superhero shakes and rattles. It and the other magnets fall off, the papers they held off flying to the ground.

INT. HAWKINS POST – MEETING ROOM – NIGHT

Nancy uses gloves as she grabs the half-eaten sandwiches and throws them in the bin. The phone rings, making Nancy look up. She sets the bin down and walks towards the phone. It rings again as she pulls the gloves off.

NANCY: (whispers) Shit, shit.

Nancy picks up the phone.

NANCY (CONT'D): Hawkins Post.

The person on the other line talks indistinctly.

NANCY (CONT'D): Um, hold on, I'm-

Nancy reaches for a notepad and pen.

NANCY (CONT'D): I'm sorry, can you...can you repeat that?

The person on the other line talks indistinctly. Nancy writes down her details: 'DORIS DRISCOLL. 4819 CORNWALLIS RD. DISEASE...RATS'.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

Mike and Eleven kiss on her bed. 'Can't Fight This Feeling' by REO Speedwagon plays from the cassette player.

REO SPEEDWAGON (ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) ...than I ever thought I might...and I can't fight this feeling anymore...

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – HOPPER'S ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper lays on his bed, smoking a cigarette and clutching a pillow. 'Can't Fight This Feeling' by REO Speedwagon plays faintly.

HOPPER: Why it's important to establish these boundaries...moving forward, so that we can create an environment where...you feel comfortable and trusted and open.

Hopper pauses.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Shit.

Hopper checks the note written by Joyce.

HOPPER (CONT'D): "To share our feelings".

Hopper drops the note and pulls the pillow away. He lets out an exhale and gets up, grunting.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper slides open the curtain to his room. He takes a deep inhale of his cigarette before putting it out in an ashtray beside the door. He takes Joyce's note and puts it in his pocket as he walks towards Eleven's room. He pauses before knocking on the wall beside the door.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey.

ELEVEN (O.S.): Yes?

HOPPER: Can I talk to you guys a minute?

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT

The door swings open. Hopper walks into the doorway to see Mike and Eleven sitting on her bed. Eleven takes a deep breath.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hi.

Mike and Eleven look confused.

MIKE and ELEVEN (IN UNISON): Hi.

REO SPEEDWAGON (ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) My life has been such a whirlwind since I saw you...

Hopper walks into the room. He grabs a chair.

REO SPEEDWAGON (CONT'D)(ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) I've been running around in circles in my mind...

Hopper sets the chair in front of Mike and Eleven and sits down. Eleven adjusts to sit on the edge of the bed.

REO SPEEDWAGON (CONT'D)(ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) And it always seems that I'm following you, girl...

Hopper looks between Mike and Eleven. They look at him, confused.

REO SPEEDWAGON (CONT'D)(ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) Cause you take me to the places...

Hopper turns around.

REO SPEEDWAGON (CONT'D)(ON CASSETTE PLAYER): (singing) That alone I'd never fi-

Hopper turns the cassette player off and turns back to Mike and Eleven. He looks nervous. They stare at him.

HOPPER: Um...

Hopper pauses. Eleven gives him a 'go on' look.

HOPPER (CONT'D): What I, uh...needed to say to you...what I wanted to say to you...is that, um...

Mike looks at Eleven.

MIKE: Uh-oh. I think we're in trouble.

Mike and Eleven look at Hopper and start chuckling. He looks at them, mouth agape, trying not to snap.

HOPPER: No. No, nobody's in trouble, okay? I just, um...

Mike leans over to whisper something in Eleven's ear.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Uh...

Eleven laughs. Annoyance crosses Hopper's face.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You know what? Your mum called.

Mike and Eleven look confused.

MIKE: What?

HOPPER: Yeah. She needs you home right away.

Mike and Eleven look concerned.

MIKE: Is everything okay?

HOPPER: No, I don't think so. It's your grandma.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Hopper and Mike walk towards Hopper's truck.

MIKE: Is she dead?

HOPPER: No.

MIKE: Did she fall again?

HOPPER: No.

MIKE: Does she have cancer?

Hopper and Mike reach Hopper's truck. They move to get in.

HOPPER: No.

MIKE: Then I don't understand. What's wrong with Nana?

INT. HOPPER'S TRUCK

Hopper waits until both doors are closed.

HOPPER: Nothing! There's nothing wrong with Nana!

Mike looks extremely confused.

MIKE: What?

HOPPER: But...there's something very wrong with this thing between you and El.

Hopper snuffles and grunts as he lays back against his seat. Mike looks angry.

MIKE: Oh, you lying piece of shit!

Mike turns to open the door and get out. The door locks. He grabs the lock and pulls it up, but it locks again. He tries again, and it locks once more. Every time he tries to unlock the door, Hopper flicks the switch to lock it. Mike turns around to Hopper.

MIKE (CONT'D): You're crazy!

HOPPER: Crazy?

Hopper looks at Mike with crazy eyes.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You want to see real crazy? You disrespect me again.

Mike starts to look nervous, almost scared.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Okay? Here's what's gonna happen. I'm gonna drive you home. And I'm gonna speak...and you're going to listen.

Hopper leans forward and rests his wrists on the top of the steering wheel.

HOPPER (CONT'D): And then, maybe...maybe by the end of it, maybe if you're lucky, maybe...I will continue to allow you to date my daughter.

Mike doesn't say anything. Hopper looks at him.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Nod if you understand!

Mike nods quickly. Hopper turns the truck on and drives off.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Max and Lucas lie on the ground, sharing a bag as a pillow. Will lays on the ground and uses another bag as a pillow. Dustin stands.

DUSTIN: Do you copy? This is Dustin. Over.

There's radio static.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Suzie! This is Dustin. Do you copy? Over.

There's radio static.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Suzie, this is your Dustin. Do you copy? Over.

There's radio static.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Suzie-

MAX: Dustin, come on! She's not there.

DUSTIN: She's there, all right? She'll pick up.

Will sits up slightly.

WILL: Maybe Cerebro doesn't work.

LUCAS: Or maybe Suzie doesn't exist.

Dustin looks offended.

DUSTIN: She exists!

LUCAS: She's a genius and she's hotter than Phoebe Cates? No girl is that perfect.

Max sits up and turns to face Lucas.

MAX: Is that so?

Lucas sits up.

LUCAS: I mean...you're perfect. I mean, like, per...perfect in your own way. In your special...your own special way.

Max smiles and chuckles.

MAX: Relax, I was teasing. I'm obviously perfect and Dustin's obviously lying.

Max stands up and holds her hand out to Lucas.

MAX (CONT'D): Come on, Don Juan.

Lucas grabs Max's hand and stands up. They start walking down the hill.

DUSTIN: Where are you going?

MAX: Home.

Max and Lucas run down the hill. Dustin watches them. Will stands up and moves to walk down the hill.

DUSTIN: Well...guess it's just you and me, Byers.

WILL: Um...

Will checks his watch.

WILL (CONT'D): It's late. Sorry. Maybe tomorrow we can play D&D. Or something fun. Like we used to?

DUSTIN: Yeah, sure.

WILL: Welcome home.

Will runs down the hill. Dustin watches him.

DUSTIN: Yeah. Welcome home.

There's distorted radio chatter. Dustin rushes to get it.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Shit.

Dustin lands on his back.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Shit.

Dustin grabs the radio transmitter.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Suzie? Suzie, is that you?

A man speaks Russian faintly over the radio. Dustin turns the volume up. He has a realisation as he listens.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – COMMS ROOM – NIGHT

A technician sits at the comms board.

TECHNICIAN: (in Russian) The silver cat feeds...when blue meets yellow in the west...a trip to China sounds nice...if you tread lightly...

Alexei opens the door and walks into the room, passing by to get to the Starcourt Gate observation room.

TECHNICIAN (CONT'D): (in Russian) The week is long...the silver cat feeds...

Alexei walks up the stairs to get to the Starcourt Gate observation room.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – NIGHT

Alexei opens the door and walks inside, standing next to a few scientists at the window. A scientist looks at him.

SCIENTIST: (in Russian) Beautiful, isn't it?

Alexei looks at the scientist and nods. He looks back at the window.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – MAIN BATHROOM – NIGHT

Karen gets ready for her date with Billy, blow drying her hair and applying makeup. She sprays perfume onto her wrist and uses it to dab perfume onto her neck. She teases her hair. She puts red lipstick on and smacks her lips. She reaches for her wedding rings and pauses, unsure. She takes them off and puts them on a tray.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – FOYER – NIGHT

Karen walks down the stairs and heads towards the front door but stops when she hears snoring.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Karen rounds the corner and stops short, seeing Ted and Holly asleep on the couch. She glances around, looking as if she feels ashamed of herself.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Billy's car speeds along. 'Nothing to Say' by Head On plays over the radio.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

Billy taps the steering wheel along with the beat. He glances in the rear-view mirror and grins, laughing. He adjusts the rear-view mirror slightly, staring at it.

BILLY: Hey, Karen. You don't mind if I call you Karen, do you? Good.

Something smashes across Billy's windshield, shattering the windshield and making him spin out of control in shock. He tries to correct himself and crashes into a bush outside Brimborn Steelworks. He groans as he's thrown to the side. Billy's eyes widen when he realises his car's turned off.

BILLY (CONT'D): Oh, no. No. Piece of shit.

Billy hits the dashboard. He touches his forehead to find it bleeding.

BILLY (CONT'D): Shit. Damn it!

EXT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – NIGHT

Billy opens the door and climbs out of the car with a grunt. Billy stands up and walks around to the other side of the car.

BILLY (CONT'D): Ah, shit.

Billy tries the passenger door but is unable to open it. He hits the door a few times.

BILLY (CONT'D): Damn it! Piece of shit!

Billy kicks the back of the car. He walks around and slams the driver's door closed. He walks to the front of the car and is confused by what he finds on the windshield, reaching out to touch it. Goo comes off with his finger.

BILLY (CONT'D): What the hell?

A shriek on the other side of the small dirt lot makes Billy look up. He looks around, trying to spot someone.

BILLY (CONT'D): Who's there?

No answer. Billy looks around.

BILLY (CONT'D): Hey!

No answer.

BILLY (CONT'D): I said, who's there?

A vine grabs Billy's leg and pulls him backwards, dragging him along the ground.

INT. BRIMBORN STEELWORKS – MAIN FLOOR – NIGHT

Billy yells and lands on the ground with a grunt, screaming as he's pulled into the factory. The vine pulls him all the way to the door to the basement. He grabs on to the doorframe as it passes, grunting and yelling as he tries to fight against whatever is pulling him. He loses the fight, being pulled into the basement with a scream. Creatures shriek in the distance.

Cut to black.

END EPISODE.

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